

PATENT APPLICATION
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q77692

Atsunori KITAZAWA, et al.

Appln. No.: Not Yet Assigned

Confirmation No.: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: **September 26, 2003**

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents, other than any U.S. patents and patent publications, is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date for an application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA) under §1.53(d); (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Attorney Docket No.: **Q77692**

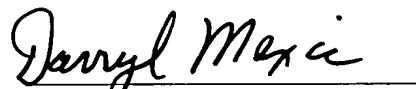
In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant submits the following explanations:

English language abstracts, submitted herewith, constitute concise statements of relevance for Japanese Patent No. 2534364, Japanese Patent Publication No. 8-32468 and Japanese Patent Laid Open Publication No. 2002-127488, all of which are cited and discussed on pages 1 and 2, respectively, in the specification of the above identified application.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: **September 26, 2003**

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| Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i> | | | | Complete if Known | |
| | | | | Application Number | Not Yet Assigned |
| | | | | Confirmation Number | Not Yet Assigned |
| | | | | Filing Date | September 26, 2003 |
| | | | | First Named Inventor | Atsunori KITAZAWA |
| | | | | Art Unit | Not Yet Assigned |
| | | | | Examiner Name | Not Yet Assigned |
| | | | | Attorney Docket Number | Q77692 |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | | |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--|--------------------------------|---|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document |
| | | Number | Kind Code ² <i>(if known)</i> | | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | | | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Translation ⁶ |
| | | Country Code ³ | Number ⁴ | Kind Code ⁵ <i>(if known)</i> | | | |
| | | JP | 2534364 | | 06-27-1996 | | Abstract |
| | | JP | 8-32468 | | 03-29-1996 | | Abstract |
| | | JP | 2000-127488 | | 05-09-2000 | | Abstract |
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| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | | | |
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³Enter Office that issued the document by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must